

GOVDOC

M3/B16

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 9999 06586 324 1

RA

82/13

BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY



#124

GOVDOC

M3/B16

CA

82/13

DIMENSIONS OF INCOME AND POVERTY
IN BOSTON, 1970-80

A Preliminary Analytic Preview of Information from the
1980 Census Summary Tape File 3

Alexander Ganz

With the Collaboration of Susan Jaster and Margaret O'Brien

October 1982

Kevin H. White, Mayor
City of Boston

Robert J. Ryan, Director
Boston Redevelopment Authority

Alexander Ganz, Director
Research Department

Boston Redevelopment Authority
Board of Directors

Robert L. Farrell, Chairman
Joseph J. Walsh, Vice-Chairman
James K. Flaherty, Treasurer
Clarence Jones, Member
William A. McDermott, Jr., Member
Kane Simonian, Secretary

Table of Contents

	Page
Summary	1
Median Household Income in Boston and the Metro Area, 1979	5
Per Capita Personal Income	5
Median Family Income, 1979 and 1969	5
Concentration of Well-to-Do Families	6
Concentration of Lower-Income Families	6
Poverty	7
Neighborhoods with High Poverty Levels	8
Resident Employment, by Industry, 1970-80	8
Journey to Work	9
Education	9
Mobility	9
Comparison of the Findings of the Ranking of Boston Neighborhoods, by Median Income Level, as Reported in the 1980 Census and the Boston Household Survey, 1980	10
Change in Household Composition, 1970-80	11
Tables	12
Letter to the Editor	31

Summary

Newly released 1980 Census information on income, labor force, and education, in the form of "Summary (Computer) Tape File 3" confirm earlier analyses of the Boston Household Survey, 1980,* but the full 1980 census data, and comparisons with that of 1970, reveal important new aspects.

On the one hand, analysis of the new Census data, and other related information, reveal that the quality of life in Boston and its neighborhoods was measurably improved, in the course of the 1970-80 decade.

- Real per capita income, adjusted for inflation, increased by 18 percent, between 1969 and 1980, in comparison with 24 percent for the**metro region and 26 percent for the nation as a whole.
- The occupational skills of the labor force (those residents 16 and over available for work) were substantially upgraded with a larger share (than ten years earlier) in professional, technical, managerial, and clerical occupations.
- The pattern of employment of resident workers, by industry, paralleled the citywide transformation of Boston's economy, in the decade, with growth in health, education, professional and other service activities, and in transportation and government, and declines in manufacturing and wholesale and retail trade.

* Boston Redevelopment Authority, Boston and Its Neighborhoods, May 1982, an analysis by Margaret C. O'Brien, based on a representative household survey conducted by the Center of Survey Research, U. Mass. and the Joint Center for Urban Studies of MIT and Harvard, Spring 1980.

** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Survey of Current Business, April 1982.

- The educational attainment of persons 25 years of age and over also advanced notably, with a doubling of the share with four or more years of college.
- Housing conditions were significantly improved, in the ten-year period, with record levels of new construction, and substantial housing fix-up.
- Three "new" census tracts made the top dozen, out of the City's 174, in levels of median income in 1980. These were tracts in South End, Charlestown, and the Waterfront.

On the other hand, the Census reports an increase in the number of persons living in poverty in Boston (as well as the metro area), between 1970 and 1980, and a decline in real (inflation adjusted) median family income, (the income of the mid-point family, when all families are arrayed by income size).

In addition, poverty in Boston (1) was reduced from four neighborhoods, in 1970, to three neighborhood, in 1980, if the standard of 25 percent or more of the population living in poverty is used, or (2) expanded from four neighborhoods to seven, if the measure of 20 percent or more is adopted.

These observations should be looked at in the light of the following phenomena.

1. Poverty in Massachusetts is low; the state ranks ninth lowest in terms of the proportion of the population with income below the poverty line. This reflects, in good part, the dynamo role of the Boston economy, the investment, development and transformation of the economic base, and the gain of 55,000 new jobs since 1976, mostly in the broad range of services activities which also account for the major share of the decennial growth in Massachusetts' jobs.
2. Boston, with twenty percent of the metro area population, has a relative concentration of poor people that is exaggerated by the City's special configuration. In the nation's thirty largest metro areas, the central city makes up two-thirds of the metro area population. If Boston were configured like other large cities it would include the suburbs of Brookline and Newton, for example, and Boston's median income would be higher. This factor, however, would not affect the significance of relative change, 1970 to 1980.

3. Poverty in the nation has been increasing since 1978, and the gap between black and white median family income has been rising since 1977. The effect of double-digit inflation in the latter years of the 1970-80 decade was to shift income regressively in favor of the well-to-do with medium- and low-income households losing ground. Poverty in Boston reflects this national phenomenon.
4. Poverty, a national phenomenon, is concentrated in cities. While thirteen percent of the nation's population was rated as "in poverty", in 1980, the corresponding rate for central cities was seventeen percent. The poverty rate in Boston is twice that in the metro area.
5. Boston's minority population made up thirty percent of the total, in 1980, rising from the twenty percent share of 1970. The poverty rate for minorities is higher than that for the total population. The Census reports a decline in the number of whites living in poverty, in 1980, in comparison with 1970, but an increase in the proportion of whites who are poor. The number of poor blacks increased, but the proportion who are poor remained about the same. The poverty rate for the hispanic population had risen from 34 percent, in 1970, to 42 percent, in 1980.
6. One out of six Boston residents is a college student. Students' incomes rate them as "poor". The college student population of Boston, at about 100,000, is the same as it was ten years ago, but they now represent a larger share of the smaller City population.
7. The loss of blue collar jobs in the 1970-80 decade impacted several of Boston's older ethnic neighborhoods.
8. The influx of middle-class adults raised income levels in a limited number of census tracts and neighborhoods, and enhanced the growth in real per capita income citywide, but the effect has not yet carried over to other neighborhoods.

*

About one-fifth of these who live in dorms and other group quarters are not included in the poverty measure.

9.The Census findings confirm the correctness of Boston's strategy:

- development and job creation;
- jobs for City resident workers;
- manpower training and education;
- neighborhood development;
- struggle for a thriving national economy, and measures enhancing a greater flow of resources to cities and their people.

10.With \$5 billion of development projects underway and planned, scheduled to generate more than 50,000 permanent jobs over the next five years, Boston's horizon is one of expanding opportunity for all of its people and neighborhoods.

Median Household Income in
Boston and the Metro Area, 1979

Median household income in Boston was approximately half that of the metro area, in 1979. See Table 1. West Roxbury and Beacon Hill-West End were the two census tract district neighborhoods with the highest median income. South Boston and Roxbury were the two neighborhoods with the lowest medians; median income in these neighborhoods is about half that in West Roxbury and Beacon Hill-West End.

Per Capita Personal Income

Boston's real per capita personal income rose by 13 percent from 1969 to 1979, and 18 percent, between 1969 and 1980. See Table 2. Per capita personal income is the average (mean), calculated by dividing total personal income by total population. The growth in Boston's real per capita personal income, 1969-80, compares with the greater increase of that for the Boston Metro Region and the nation as a whole, of 24 percent and 26 percent, respectively.

In addition, the disparity in levels between Boston and the Metro Region are much less, in the case of per capita personal income (than was the case with median income, as noted in Table 1), with Boston representing 87 percent of that of the Metro Region, in 1980.

Median Family Income, 1979 and 1969

In contrast with the rise in real per capita personal income, Boston's real median family income, measured in inflation adjusted dollars, fell by nine percent from 1969 to 1979. See Table 3. The median is the income of the mid-point family when all families are arrayed by income size. Though the decline in median family income pervaded all population groups in the City, the reduction for white and

black families was a minimal 0.4 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively, while that for hispanics was 18 percent. This latter decline is an artificial statistic, in part, since two-thirds of Boston's 1980 hispanic population had not lived in the City in 1970. It should be noted, in addition, that the fall in median income levels, 1969-79, is influenced by the change in household composition. Specifically, the reduction in the share of the City's population in families and the rise in single-person and non-family households is thought to be a key factor affecting the change in median income.

Median family income in the Metro Area rose by three percent in real terms, 1969-79.

Concentration of Well-to-Do Families

When the median income of Boston's 116,000 families is examined by the 174 census tracts into which the City is divided, for Census measurement purposes, a relative concentration of families with census tract median incomes of \$25,000 or more is found in Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Prudential, Charles River Park, the Waterfront, and West Roxbury census tracts. See Table 4. Surprisingly, two census tracts in the South End and Charlestown also make the top twelve.

Concentration of Lower-Income Families

In comparison, nineteen census tracts report median family incomes of \$10,000 or less. See Table 5. These include census tracts in Roxbury, Dorchester and South End, as well as tracts in South Boston, East Boston and Charlestown.

In addition, seven census tracts reported a 1969-79 change in median family income of 25 percent or less (at a time when prices rose

by 93 percent). These include tracts in Roxbury, South End, Downtown, and Charlestown.

Poverty

The number of persons in poverty, in Boston, rose by eight percent, 1969-79, and the percentage of the population in poverty increased from sixteen percent, in 1969, to twenty percent, in 1979. See Table 6. Poverty, as used in the Census, is measured as a range of income levels adjusted for family size, sex of family head, number of children under eighteen, and farm or non-farm residence, and this measure is also modified in accordance with changes in the price level. In 1979, the poverty threshold for a family of four was \$7,412.

Significantly, population in poverty, and the poverty rate, also expanded in the Boston Metropolitan Area, between 1969 and 1979. See Table 7.

The differential patterns of poverty, by race and ethnic origin, throw light on the process of change in the course of the decade. For the white population, the number of persons in poverty declined, while the percentage of the population in poverty (the poverty rate) increased in both the City and the Metro Area, between 1969 and 1979. In contrast, the number of blacks living in poverty increased, but the rate remained about the same in both the City and the Metro Area, over the ten-year period.

The big change was in both the increase in the size of the hispanic population in poverty, as well as the rise in the poverty rate, over the decade, in both Boston and the Metro Area. In fact, the growth of the hispanic population was equivalent to the overall expansion of the population in poverty in both the City and the Metro Area. As noted

earlier, this statistic is artificial in the sense that approximately two-thirds of the hispanic population in Boston and the Metro Area had not lived here in 1970.

Neighborhoods with High Poverty Levels

In 1969, four of Boston's fifteen census tract district neighborhoods had poverty rates of 25 percent or more. See Table 8. These neighborhoods were South End, Dorchester, Back Bay-Fenway, and Roxbury-Mission Hill. (Back Bay-Fenway, with the smallest number of persons per household in the City, has concentrations of students and non-family households).

By 1979, only three neighborhoods had poverty rates of 25 percent or more. South End was no longer in this category.

On the other hand, if the criteria of measuring poverty is broadened to include neighborhoods with rates of twenty percent or more, the number remains at four, in 1969, but increases to seven, in 1979, with Allston-Brighton, South End, Jamaica Plain, and South Boston added to the 1979 rank.

Resident Employment, by Industry, 1970-80

Decennial changes in the industry of employment of Boston resident workers, 1970-80, reflect the important transformation of the City's economy, in that period, and also reveal some of the factors in the decade's change in population and in poverty.

The industries with large increases in resident employment parallel overall job changes in the City, and include business, health and education services, transportation and managerial, professional and sales occupations. See Table 9.

Industries with large declines in resident employment include manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade and household services. These changes reflect the loss of blue collar jobs and related population, the suburbanization of trade, and the withering away of household service occupations as employment opportunities expand.

Journey to Work

As noted earlier, in Boston's Household Survey, 1980, three-fourths of Boston resident workers work in Boston, and one-fourth work outside of Boston. See Table 10. Neighborhoods with the highest percentage working in Boston are South Boston and the Waterfront-North End, with 89 percent and 84 percent, respectively. Neighborhoods with the lowest share working in Boston include Allston-Brighton and West Roxbury, with 65 percent and 67 percent, respectively.

Education

Again, as revealed earlier in the Boston Household Survey, 1980, the City's population experienced a broad advance in educational attainment, between 1970 and 1980. The share of the population 25 years of age and over with college training increased by almost half, between 1970 and 1980, rising from 19 percent to 33 percent. See Table 11.

Census tracts with the highest proportion of persons 25 and over with some college training include tracts in Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Kenmore Square, Charles River Park, Fenway, Prudential, Downtown, Waterfront, South End, Brighton and St. Botolph.

Mobility

While Boston has many neighborhoods characterized by frequent population turnover--Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway, Allston-Brighton, South End, the City also has neighborhoods with extraordinary population

stability. Half of the City's population reported, in both 1970 and 1980, that they had lived in the same house five years earlier, and an additional one-fourth stated that they had lived in the City but in a different house five years previously. See Table 13.

Comparison of the Findings of the Ranking of Boston Neighborhoods, by Median Income Level, as Reported in the 1980 Census and the Boston Household Survey, 1980

The Boston Household Survey, 1980, a representative sample survey, conducted by the Center for Survey Research with a questionnaire designed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority, was patterned on the Census questionnaire, and was commissioned, in part, with a view to providing a preview of the Census results one or two years before the latter information would be available. The results of the survey were in use in 1980 and have been extensively used since that time. As the results of the 1980 Census have begun to emerge this year, the match of findings with the survey has been very close. The match of population by race and ethnic composition was virtually identical, for example.* Several new comparisons, drawing on the 1980 Census Summary Tape File 3, are here presented.

Virtually identical rankings of Boston neighborhoods, by median income level, 1979, are reported by both the 1980 Census and the Boston Household Survey, with Beacon Hill-West End and West Roxbury in the top of the rank order, and Roxbury and South Boston at the bottom of the rank order. See Table 14.

* Susan Jaster, Boston Redevelopment Authority, Race and Hispanic Origin of Boston's Population, 1980 and 1970; Information by Census Tract District Neighborhood and Census Tract, U.S. Bureau of the Census, May 1981.

Similar close matches are reported in the education level of adults, and the place of work of Boston residents. See Tables 15 and 16.

Change in Household Composition, 1970-80

The reported decline in real median income levels, and increase in the population in poverty, in Boston, over the decade, may be attributed to the change in household composition, in part. Single person and non-family households increased by one-third, from 1970 to 1980, and made up 47 percent of all households in the latter year. See Table 17. In contrast, the number of family households declined by seventeen percent.

Table 1

MEDIAN¹ HOUSEHOLD INCOME,
IN BOSTON AND THE METRO AREA,
1979

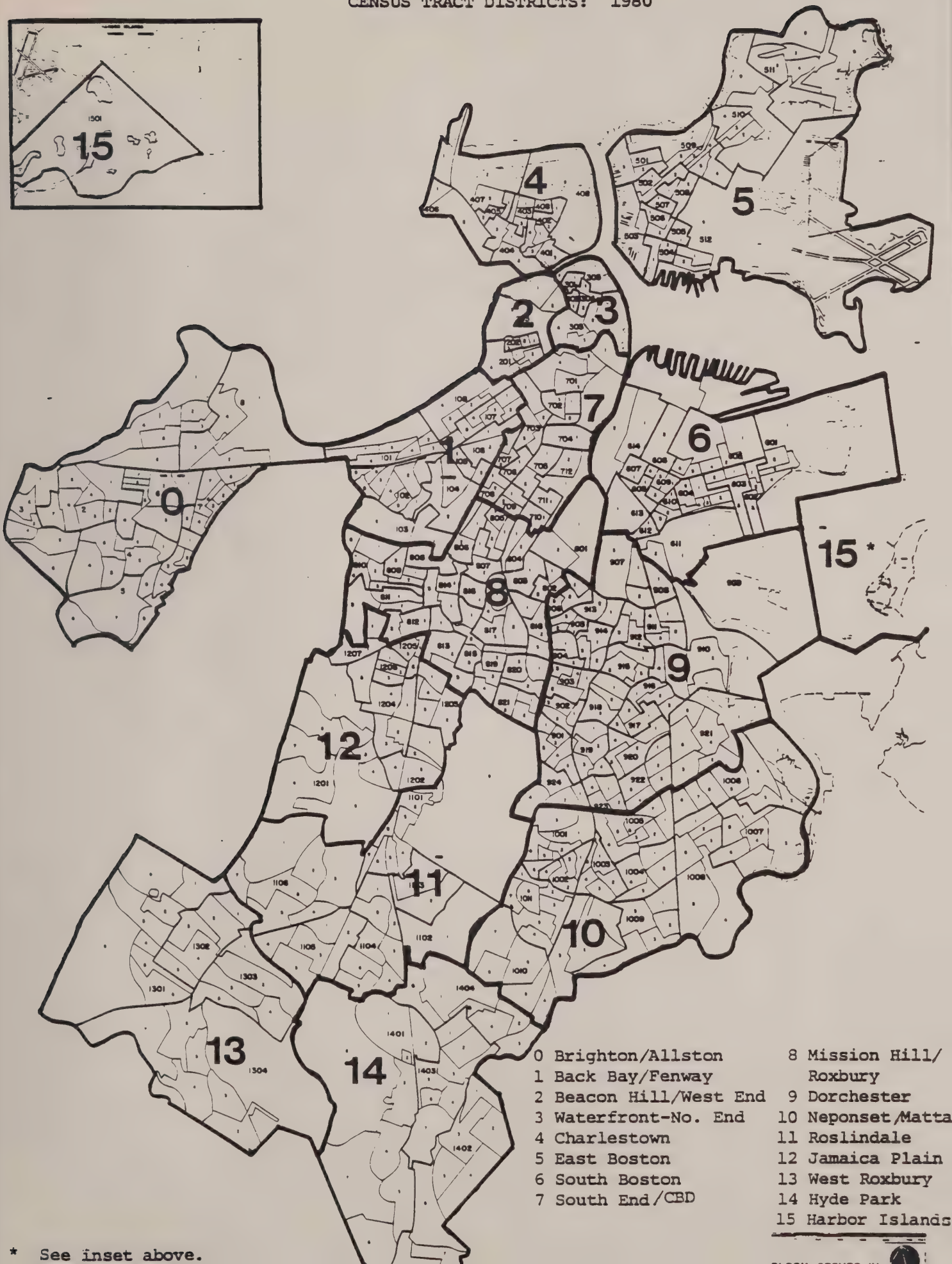
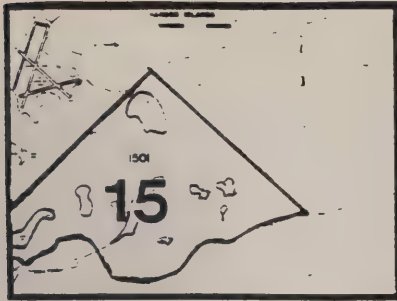
Boston SMSA ²	\$24,095
Boston	12,530
Two Census Tract Districts with Highest Medians:	
West Roxbury	18,838
Beacon Hill-West End	17,462
Two Census Tract Districts with Lowest Medians:	
South Boston	9,202
Roxbury	\$9,449

¹ The median is the midpoint; in this case, it represents the middle household when all are arrayed by income size.

² Boston Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as of 1970.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3: Massachusetts; courtesy of The Boston Globe.

CENSUS TRACT DISTRICTS: 1980



- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0 Brighton/Allston | 8 Mission Hill/
Roxbury |
| 1 Back Bay/Fenway | 9 Dorchester |
| 2 Beacon Hill/West End | 10 Neponset/Matta |
| 3 Waterfront-No. End | 11 Roslindale |
| 4 Charlestown | 12 Jamaica Plain |
| 5 East Boston | 13 West Roxbury |
| 6 South Boston | 14 Hyde Park |
| 7 South End/CBD | 15 Harbor Islands |

* See inset above.

Table 2

PERSONAL INCOME AND PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME
(Current dollars)

Location	Total Personal Income			Per Capita		
	Millions of Dollars	& Change		Personal Income	% Change	
	1969	1979	1980	Dollars	1979	1980
				1969	1979	1980
United States	747,536	1,939,751	2,160,629	3,714	8,638	9,511
Boston-Lowell- Brockton- Lawrence- Haverhill Metro Region	15,735	35,028	39,670	4,273	9,544	10,803
Boston (Suffolk County)	2,861	5,398	6,100	3,897	8,265	9,353
United States	1,524,973	2,114,329	2,160,629	7,577	9,415	9,511
Boston-Lowell Brockton- Lawrence- Haverhill Metro Region	32,099	38,181	39,670	8,717	10,403	10,803
Boston	5,836	5,884	6,100	7,950	9,009	9,353

Source: Survey of Current Business, April 1982.

October, 1982

Table 3

MEDIAN BOSTON FAMILY INCOME IN 1979 AND 1969 IN
CURRENT AND CONSTANT DOLLARS,
BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

		Median Family Income			Percent Change In Real Income
		1979	1969		
		<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Constant Dollars</u>	<u>Current Dollars</u>	
			(1979 prices)		
Boston					
	All families	16,062	17,627	9,133	-8.9
	White	18,818	18,744	9,712	-0.4
	Black	12,017	12,248	6,346	-1.9
	Asian	14,486	-	-	-
	Hispanic origin ¹	9,247	11,304	5,857	-18.0
Boston SMSA ²					
	All families	22,813	22,097	11,449	3.2

¹ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Exact comparisons of Hispanics in 1980 and 1970 are made difficult by a change in the definition of "Hispanic" between the years. The 1980 question was subjective, asking persons if they considered themselves to be of Hispanic origin or descent; the 1970 Census objectively identified persons by determining Spanish mother tongue (the language spoken in the respondents' home when (s)he was a child) and assigned Spanish-language status to all persons in families where the head or spouse reported Spanish as his/her mother tongue.

² Boston SMSA as of 1970.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census,
1979, Census of Population and Housing, 1980; Summary Tape
File 3, Massachusetts; courtesy of The Boston Globe.
1969, Census of Population and Housing, 1970: General
Social and Economic Characteristics, Massachusetts.
Constant dollars calculated by applying 1969 to 1979
change in Consumer Price Index.

Table 4

BOSTON CENSUS TRACTS WITH 1979 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME
GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO \$25,000

<u>Tract</u>	<u>(Location)</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Percent Change</u> <u>1969 to 1979</u> (Current Dollars)	<u>Per Capita</u> <u>Income</u>
201	(Beacon Hill)	\$44,000	136	\$17,100
108	(Back Bay)	43,500	199	17,400
106	(Prudential)	42,100	116	18,800
107	(Back Bay)	32,800	160	12,200
203	(Charles River Park)	31,900	68	14,000
706	(South End)	30,700	318	10,900
406	(Charlestown)	30,400	310	7,700
1303	(West Roxbury)	27,300	106	8,800
303	(Waterfront)	26,900	142	20,000
401	(Charlestown)	25,600	121	10,500
1201	(Jamaica Plain)	25,200	99	9,800
1302	(West Roxbury)	25,000	90	7,900

Census Tracts with 1969 to 1979 Change in Median Family Income
Greater Than or Equal to 200%

706 (South End)
406 (Charlestown)
105 (St. Botolph)
807 (Roxbury)

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 and 1980 Censuses of Population and Housing; courtesy of The Boston Globe.

Table 5

BOSTON CENSUS TRACTS WITH 1979 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME
LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO \$10,000

<u>Tract</u>	<u>(Location)</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Percent Change 1969 to 1979</u>	<u>Per Capita Income</u>
821	(Roxbury)	\$9,733	50	\$4,317
903	(Dorchester)	9,503	53	3,892
711	(South End)	9,017	19	3,152
812	(Mission Hill)	8,954	118	3,145
610	(South Boston)	8,847	40	4,198
902	(Dorchester)	8,803	69	3,789
905	(Dorchester)	8,697	75	4,069
611	(South Boston)	8,499	27	3,801
712	(South End)	8,414	86	3,554
814	(Roxbury)	8,382	37	5,126
805	(Roxbury)	8,355	72	4,229
503	(East Boston)	8,333	55	3,545
813	(Roxbury)	8,152	18	3,687
408	(Charlestown)	7,022	13	3,226
808	(Mission Hill)	6,946	55	3,505
801	(Roxbury)	6,734	10	4,209
607	(South Boston)	6,709	46	3,281
803	(Roxbury)	6,596	19	3,607
806	(Roxbury)	6,258	29	3,735

Census Tracts with 1969 to 1979 Change in Median Family Income
Less Than or Equal to 25%

<u>Tract</u>	<u>(Location)</u>
701	(Downtown)
1207	(Mission Hill)
711	(South End)
813	(Roxbury)
408	(Charlestown)
801	(Roxbury)
803	(Roxbury)

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 and 1980 Censuses of Population and Housing; courtesy of The Boston Globe.

October, 1982

Table 6

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS IN POVERTY,
BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN FOR BOSTON, 1979 AND 1969

	Persons in Poverty, 1979	Poverty Rate, Percent	Persons in Poverty, 1969	Poverty Rate, Percent	Change in Poverty Population 1969 to 1979	
					Number	Percent
All persons	106,770	20.2	99,262	16.2	7,508	7.6
White	57,788	15.7	67,662	12.9	-9,879	-14.6
Black	35,257	28.6	29,122	28.4	6,135	21.1
Asian	3,518	22.4	-	-	-	-
Hispanic ¹	14,813	41.9	6,088	34.4	8,725	143.3

Census Tract Districts with the lowest 1979 poverty rates: West Roxbury (5.2%) and Hyde Park (9.9%).

Census Tract Districts with the highest 1979 poverty rates: Roxbury (31.3%), Back Bay-Fenway (26.4%), Dorchester (26.3%).

¹ See Table 3, footnote 1.

The definition of poverty as used by the Federal Government is a range of income levels adjusted by such factors as family size, sex of the family head, number of children under 18 years old, and farm-nonfarm residence. For a nonfarm family of four, in 1979, the poverty threshold was \$7,412.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census,
1979, Census of Population and Housing, 1980: Summary Tape
File 3, Massachusetts; courtesy of The Boston Globe.
1969, Census of Population and Housing, 1970: General
Social and Economic Characteristics, Massachusetts.

Table 7

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS IN POVERTY BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN
FOR THE BOSTON STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA¹,
IN 1979 AND 1969

	Persons in Poverty, 1979	Poverty Rate, Percent	Persons in Poverty, 1969	Poverty Rate, Percent	Change in Poverty Population 1969 to 1979	
					Number	Percent
All persons	244,561	9.7	228,233	8.5 ²	16,328	7.2
White	184,705	8.1	192,200	7.4 ²	-7,495	-3.9
Black	40,149	26.4	32,480	26.5	7,669	23.6
Asian	5,961	16.6	-	-	-	-
Hispanic ³	22,046	34.9	7,809	22.1	14,240	182.3

¹ Boston SMSA as of 1970.

² Data limitations preclude exact determination of this value. The figure given is the lowest possible correct number; the true value may be one to two percentage points higher.

³ See Table 3, footnote 1.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census,
1979, Census of Population and Housing: Summary Tape File
3, Massachusetts; courtesy of The Boston Globe.
1969, Census of Population and Housing, 1970: General
Social and Economic Characteristics, Massachusetts.

Table 8

CENSUS TRACT DISTRICTS BY RELATIVE CONCENTRATIONS OF POVERTY,
BOSTON, 1969 AND 1979

<u>Year</u>	<u>Census Tract District</u>	Poverty Rate Greater Than or Equal to:	
		<u>25%</u>	<u>20%</u>
1969:			
	South End	33.9	33.9
	Dorchester	28.7	27.8
	Back Bay-Fenway	27.8	27.6
	Roxbury-Mission Hill	27.6	28.7
1979:			
	Roxbury-Mission Hill	31.3	31.3
	Back Bay-Fenway	26.4	26.4
	Dorchester	26.3	26.3
	Allston-Brighton		22.2
	South End		21.1
	Jamaica Plain		20.2
	South Boston		20.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 and 1980 Censuses of
Population and Housing; courtesy of The Boston Globe.

Table 9

DECREASE OR INCREASE IN EMPLOYED BOSTON RESIDENTS, AGED 16 AND OVER,
BY INDUSTRY, 1980

<u>Industries Experiencing Increases in Boston Resident Employment</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>Industries Experiencing Decreases in Boston Resident Employment</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Transportation	14.4	Agriculture & Mining	-27.0
Business & Repair Services	31.9	Construction	-30.7
Health Services	30.1	Wholesale Trade	-37.8
Educational Services	22.4	Manufacturing	-21.7
Public Administration	7.5	Communications & Public Utilities	-31.5
Managerial	67.9	Retail Trade	-10.5
Professional	22.6	Recreation Services	-21.8
Sales	24.6	Private Household Services	-53.7
		Precision Products	-27.2
		Machine Operators	-37.9

Total Boston Resident Employment declined 3.9 percent (while population fell by 12 percent).

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing:
1980, Summary Tape File 3: Massachusetts; courtesy of
The Boston Globe.

October, 1982.

Table 10

PLACE OF WORK OF BOSTON RESIDENT WORKERS, 1980

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Live in Boston, work in Boston	165,112	74.8
Live in Boston, work outside Boston	55,533	25.2

Census Tract Districts with the
highest percentage of residents
working in Boston

South Boston	86.8%
Waterfront-North End	83.6%

Census Tract Districts with the
lowest percentage of residents
working in Boston

Allston-Brighton	64.6%
West Roxbury	66.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing:
1980, Summary Tape File 3, Massachusetts; courtesy of
The Boston Globe.

October, 1982

Table 11

PERSONS 25 AND OVER BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED, BOSTON 1980 AND 1970

	<u>1980</u>		<u>1970</u>	
	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0-8 years	54,932	16.6	91,582	26.1
1-3 years high school	49,407	14.9	71,511	20.4
High school	115,787	35.0	120,350	34.3
1-3 years college	43,451	13.1	30,876	8.8
4 or more years of college	67,073	20.3	36,245	10.3
Total	330,650	100.0	350,564	100.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1980, Summary Tape File 3, Massachusetts; courtesy of The Boston Globe.

Census of Population and Housing: 1970, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Massachusetts.

Table 12

CENSUS TRACTS WITH THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF
PERSONS 25 AND OVER WITH SOME COLLEGE

<u>Tract</u>	<u>(Location)</u>
201	(Beacon Hill)
108	(Back Bay)
101	(Kenmore Square)
107	(Back Bay)
202	(Beacon Hill)
203	(Charles River Park)
102	(Fenway)
106	(Prudential)
303	(CBD-Waterfront)
706	(South End)
5	(Brighton)
7	(Brighton)
105	(St. Botolph)

Boston ranked 71st in ranking of SMSA¹ towns by percentage of persons 25 and over with some college. However, Boston had the fourth highest percentage increase, 1970-80, among those cities and towns after Somerville, Salem, Waltham.

¹ Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as of 1970.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing: 1980, Summary Tape File 3, Massachusetts; courtesy of The Boston Globe

Table 13

DISTRIBUTION OF BOSTON RESIDENTS BY
RESIDENCE FIVE YEARS PREVIOUSLY, 1970 AND 1980

	<u>Same House</u>	<u>Different House, Same County</u>
1980	52.9	23.6
1970	49.8	26.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing:
1980, Summary Tape File 3, Massachusetts; courtesy of
The Boston Globe.

October, 1982

Table 14

RANKING OF BOSTON NEIGHBORHOODS, BY MEDIAN INCOME LEVELS, 1979,
AS REPORTED IN THE 1980 CENSUS AND THE 1980 BRA HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Census Tract District Neighborhoods	Household Income, 1980 Census (Rank out of 15)		Family Income, 1980 Household Survey (Rank out of 12)		Family & Unrelated Individual Income, 1980 Household Survey (Rank out of 13)	
West Roxbury	\$18,838	(1)	\$16,650	(3) ^a	\$15,700	(2) ^d
Beacon Hill- West End	17,462	(2)	40,000	(1) ^b	16,100	(1) ^e
Roxbury	9,449	(14)	9,000	(12) ^c	7,500	(12) ^c
South Boston	\$ 9,202	(15)	\$ 9,450	(11)	\$ 7,300	(13)

^a The West Roxbury Planning District is somewhat larger than the West Roxbury Census Tract District and was combined with Hyde Park for income analysis purposes.

^b The Back Bay-Beacon Hill Planning District is combined with the Central Area Planning District.

^c The Roxbury Planning District does not include Mission Hill, but does include Franklin Field.

^d The West Roxbury Planning District is somewhat larger than the West Roxbury Census Tract District.

^e The Back Bay-Beacon Hill Planning District.



- | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-----|--------------------|
| 1 | EAST BOSTON | 9 | JAMAICA PLAIN |
| 2 | CHARLESTOWN | 10 | ROXBURY |
| 3 | SOUTH BOSTON | 11A | DORCHESTER (North) |
| 4 | CENTRAL | 11B | DORCHESTER (South) |
| 5 | BACK BAY/BEACON HILL | 12 | ROSLINDALE |
| 6 | SOUTH END | 13 | WEST ROXBURY |
| 7 | FENWAY/KENMORE | 14 | HYDE PARK |
| 8 | ALLSTON/BRIGHTON | 15 | MATTAPAN/FRANKLIN |



PLANNING DISTRICTS

Table 15

BOSTON ADULTS 25 AND OVER BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED
(Percent Distribution)

	<u>1980 Census</u>	<u>1980 BRA Household Survey</u>
0-8 years	16.6	12
1-3 years high school	14.9	14
High school	35.0	34
1-3 years college	13.1	19
4 or more years college	20.3	22
Total [*]	100.0	100

* May not total due to rounding.

Table 16

PLACE OF WORK OF BOSTON RESIDENT WORKERS, 1980
(Percent Distribution)

	<u>1980 Census</u>	<u>1980 BRA Household Survey</u>
Work in Boston	74.8	73
Work outside Boston	25.2	27

Table 17

CHANGES IN HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, BOSTON 1970-80

Type of Household	Number of Households		Percent Change	Percent of All Households
	1970	1980	1970-80	1980
Married couples with children under 18	51,487	33,622	-34.7%	15.4%
Married couples without children under 18	50,660	39,711	-21.6	18.2
Female-headed families	31,913	35,408	+11.0	16.2
Male-headed families	6,906	7,633	+10.0	3.5
Households with room-mates only	13,646	21,777	+59.6	10.0
People living alone	63,010	80,306	+27.4	36.7
Total households	217,622	218,457	+ 0.4%	100.0%

Source: 1970 Census of Population, Detailed Characteristics: 1970 Census of Housing; tabulations of Summary Tape File 1 provided by Massachusetts State Data Center.

Boston Redevelopment Authority

October 28, 1982

Letter to the Editor
Boston Globe
Boston, MA 02107

Irene Sege and Daniel Golden of the Globe Staff are to be commended for their very informative, research-based story on Boston and its neighborhoods, drawing on newly available 1980 Census data on income, employment and education, in the front page Globe report of October 16th.

The census data analysis, with comparisons of a decade ago, and the household interviews capture the sense of extraordinary change in an old, staid city, with professionals and minorities increasing, blue collar families leaving, job skills and educational levels advancing, and poverty spreading.

To this observer, nevertheless, the story headline "Rich and Poor, But Fewer In Between; Hub's Middle-Class Exodus Continues" is a little exaggerated and slights the most important news--the broad advance in the education level of adults and in the occupational skills of resident workers, and the relative success in competing for the newly emerging jobs in the City, as is evidenced by the similarity in the industry of employment profile of resident workers and the overall profile of jobs in Boston.

As a consequence, the middle-class is alive and well in Boston. This is confirmed by the newly released 1980 Census information on the distribution of families by income levels. In a decade which was unkind, with universal increases in the number of people in poverty--in Boston, in the Metro Area, in Massachusetts, and in the United States --Boston's middle-income families held up relatively well. The percentage of Boston's families with income between 80 percent and 200 percent of the Metro Area median (\$18,250-\$45,626, in 1979) was 44 percent, in 1969, and 39 percent, in 1979. (The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Intermediate Family Budget was \$29,213 in Autumn 1981.)

* Irene Sege and Daniel Golden, The Boston Globe, October 16, 1982, based on unpublished tabulations of 1980 Census Summary Tape File 3, prepared by Dualabs of Arlington, Virginia.
U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Profile of the United States: 1981, Population Characteristics, Series P-20, No. 374, September 1982, Table 10-1.

BOSTON'S FAMILIES, BY INCOME LEVEL

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1979</u>
Less than 80% of Metro Area Median (Lower Income)	50%	55%
80%-200% of Metro Area Median (Moderate Income)	44%	39%
More than 200% of Metro Area Median (Upper Income)	6%	6%
All Families	100%	100%

Source: From unpublished tabulations of 1980 Census Summary Tape File 3 obtained through the courtesy of The Boston Globe; 1970 Census of Population and Housing, General Social and Economic Characteristics: Massachusetts.

The dimmer view of the Globe flows, perhaps, from a minor statistical error in the article, which uses a 106% 1970-80 inflation rate. The income data are for 1969 and 1979 and the 1969-79 inflation rate of 94% should have been used. When this rate is applied, the median income of 5 out of 15 neighborhoods exceeded inflation (rather than 3). These are Back Bay-Fenway (146%), South End-Chinatown (116%), North End-Waterfront (107%), Beacon Hill-West End (103%), and Charlestown (95%). Others were not far behind, including West Roxbury (89%) and Roslindale (88%).

Alexander Ganz

Alexander Ganz
Research Director

/c

